

## 2026 STARS OF TOMORROW AUDITIONS

**Saturday, February 14, 2026**

**8:30 am – Preliminary rounds begin (tentative)**

**1:30 pm – Semifinal round (tentative)**

**First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa**

**1511 Church Street**

**Wauwatosa, WI 53213**

The annual Stars of Tomorrow Auditions are open to all eligible Wisconsin high school string, woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians. The top three winners will have the honor of appearing as soloists with the MSO at the Audrey G. Baird Stars of Tomorrow Concert on April 12, 2026. Audition slots are limited and will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis as applications are received.

Each soloist will receive a \$1,000 award. An additional award of \$1,000 will be presented to the soloist judged to have performed exceptionally well with the orchestra at the Stars of Tomorrow Concert, and the other two soloists will each receive a \$250 award. Finalists and honorable mentions will have the opportunity to play side-by-side with musicians of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

## Contest Rules and Regulations

### Eligibility

The contest is open to high school students who are members of the 2025.26 freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior class and are Wisconsin residents. Former award winners are ineligible for further competition.

Registration for a contestant will not be processed without a fully completed registration form and a \$40.00 registration fee\* payable by credit card, check, or money order to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

### Divisions

The following is a list of eligible instruments:

Strings	Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion
violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp <i>Note: Violists and double bassists are especially encouraged to audition.</i>	flute, piccolo, oboe, English horn, clarinet, bassoon	horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba	marimba

### Repertoire

Contestants must play a piece listed on the approved Stars of Tomorrow repertoire list. The list can be found at [mso.org/stars](https://mso.org/stars).

### Contest Rules

A five-minute portion of the selection will be heard at the audition. The same portion should be used in both rounds of competition. If the selection consists of a single movement with contrasting sections or multiple movements played without pause, the candidate should establish cuts that demonstrate the contrasts for the audition. The candidate should clearly indicate any cuts made in the scores furnished to the judges.

The contestant must be prepared to play a selection from the approved Stars of Tomorrow repertoire list in order to be considered as a soloist with the MSO at the Stars of Tomorrow concert. Otherwise, the contestant will only be considered for participation in the side-by-side portion of the concert. Contestants must furnish their own instrument for all aspects of this competition.

Contestants must provide contest judges with an **original** copy of their selection as well as perform from an original copy. Photocopies are not acceptable.

Contestants must provide their own pianist and include the pianist's name, phone number, and signature on their application. Both the contestant and the pianist must be available for both rounds of competition on February 14, 2026. The MSO must be notified of any pianist changes. No pianist changes can be made after January 20, 2026. The MSO does not provide pianists.

MSO musicians will serve as judges for both rounds and their decisions will be final.

**If a contestant submits an application fee and decides not to proceed with an audition, the contestant needs to notify the MSO by February 7 to receive a refund. Cancellations following this date will not receive a refund.**

Mail completed form with \$40.00 application fee\* payable by credit card, check, or money order to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra:

**Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra**  
**Education Department**  
**212 W. Wisconsin Avenue**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53203**

**Applications must be postmarked by January 20, 2026.**

Once your application is processed, you will receive an email confirmation with further contest details.

For office use only:

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## 2026 STARS OF TOMORROW APPLICATION

*This application may be duplicated. Applications with missing information will not be processed.*

Name	Age	Date of Birth
_____		
Phone _____		
Street Address, City, Zip _____		
Student Email	Instrument	
_____	_____	
Parent Email _____		
Musical Selection _____		
Movement (if applicable)	Composer	
_____	_____	
High School	Grade (2025.26)	9      10      11      12
School Band/Orchestra Director _____		
Pianist	Pianist's Phone	
_____	_____	
Private Teacher	Teacher's Phone	
_____	_____	
Private Teacher's Address (Include city/zip) _____		
Private Teacher's Email _____		

### REQUIRED SIGNATURES

**Pianist's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Private Teacher's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s) Name** (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment enclosed:** Check ☐ Money order ☐ Credit card ☐ : please fill out CC information below

Type of card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CW: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Financial assistance available. Please email [edu@mso.org](mailto:edu@mso.org) for more information.*